

in each of our lives. May the joy of the holidays renew our commitment to working together for a future of peace, opportunity, and hope.

Laura joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this message.

Message on the Observance of Kwanzaa

December 20, 2002

I send greetings to those celebrating Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa celebrates the traditional African values of unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. From December 26th to January 1st, people of African descent gather to renew their commitment to these seven principles, known as *Nguzo Saba*, and give thanks for the blessings of family, community, and culture. Kwanzaa is also a time for Africans and African-Americans to honor their common heritage by participating in events based on early harvest gatherings called *matunda ya kwanza*, or first fruits.

As individuals and families join together during Kwanzaa, their joy enriches communities in the United States and across the globe. By uniting people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs, this holiday promotes mutual understanding and respect. These universal principles inspire us as we work together for a future of freedom, hope, and opportunity for all.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable Kwanzaa, and for peace, happiness, and success in the coming year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 14

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had intelligence briefings.

December 15

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. In the evening, at the National Building Museum, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in the taping of the annual "Christmas in Washington" concert for television broadcast on TNT at 8 p.m.

December 16

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei.

In the afternoon, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, the President made remarks to Cabinet and sub-Cabinet officials to thank them for their service.

During the day, the President met with House leaders to discuss proposed legislation concerning prescription drugs for seniors.

December 17

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then met with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert to discuss the legislative agenda for the upcoming session of Congress. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Vladimir Voronin of Moldova.

December 18

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark B. McClellan to discuss FDA

initiatives to promote scientifically based information for consumers on foods and dietary supplements.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, following their meeting in the Oval Office.

The President announced the appointment of David Hobbs as Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs and Ziad Ojakli as Deputy Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Janet Hale to be Under Secretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clark Kent Ervin to be Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security.

December 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East. He then had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

December 20

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea to congratulate him on his December 19 electoral victory. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Senator Trent Lott to discuss Senator Lott's announcement earlier in the day that he will not seek the Senate majority leader's position when Congress re-convenes on January 6, 2003.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were

submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 38, H.R. 308, H.R. 451, H.R. 706, H.R. 1712, H.R. 1776, H.R. 1814, H.R. 1870, H.R. 1906, and H.R. 1925

Released December 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a townhall meeting for future Department of Homeland Security employees hosted by Homeland Security Secretary-designate Tom Ridge

Statement by the Press Secretary: Iraqi Opposition Conference, London, December 2002

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3180, H.R. 3401, H.R. 3449, H.R. 3609, H.R. 3858, H.R. 4692, H.R. 4823, H.R. 5125, H.R. 5738, H.R. 2099, H.R. 2109, H.R. 2115, H.R. 2187, H.R. 2385, H.R. 2628, H.R. 2818, H.R. 2828, H.R. 2937, and H.R. 2990

Released December 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary commending the Federal Trade Commission for voting to create a national "Do Not Call" registry